

New York - 18th Jan^y 1850.

Many happy new years to my valued friends! & to
my dear Mrs Gray, in particular, better wishes to enjoy them -
I have wished, for some time past, to write to you, but
really my health & spirits have been so low that I dared
not to vent my tediousness & complainings upon you.
But on the receipt of your kind note, I resolve to
delay no longer, & trust to your kindness & sympathy
to bear with a rapid letter - barren of news & interest.

As you say, Dr. Airney happened to call upon me
when I was just beginning to creep about, after an
attack of influenza & fever - I gave him a letter to
Mr. C. & some other mem^s. for his guidance - I have
heard nothing of his subsequent movements, nor yet of
our agreeable friend Dr. Alexander - Mr. Comy is better,
but still looks very feeble, I think - They are now all
boarding in town, except "Maggie" who is with Mr. Henry
at Washington - The good Doctor has been quite unwell,
with some bronchial affection, & has been obliged to
resort to a large blister on his chest - Miserable work
in connection with his Class lectures, which he did
not suspend for a single day - I hope he is now
mending - I suspect he has his head full, & this may
account for his not writing the notice of the Gen. Assn.
as to which I have joggled his memory, several times.

You also, my dear Doctor, have enough, & too much to do - I wish I could think your European voyage would be a holiday trip for you - but it will needs be far otherwise, I fear - whether I shall see you in the Spring, I know not - & can say nothing as to my personal movements, except that the year does not open under the most pleasant auspices for me - My son's wedding day is not yet fixed, but he will be free from his engagement at the Bank books in 2 months, after which he will come to the City. He is now here, on a visit, but, as you may suppose, I see little of him - In fact, I have little more than a historical knowledge of his being in town - Mr. A's family is large, & they all expect to have more or less of his time, when here - The Directors of his Company have passed the most flattering resolutions on accepting his resignation, which is gratifying - Indeed, I believe they scarcely expect to find another Superintendent uniting to his char. all his qualifications. I thank you for the slip of Dewey's Caricag. &c. I am fairly sick of his nonsense, & care not to weary you with comments on it - Either he, or I have become fatigued! I have quite discontinued our Correspondence - which could not be entertaining or profitable, since we have no sort of understanding - or mere general principles. If he has any idea of Vegetable Structure - why I have not, & I give up - I was much surprised, a few days since, by a visit from Dr. Chapman! who has come

on hither to purchase Goussin - in which he is about to deal at Apalach. - He is really a good-natured pleasant fellow. I dined with him one day at Sam's, & last evening he took tea with me, in June St. & staid until 1 1/2 o'clk. this morn! He is still very fond of Botany - eagerly so, - & is evidently picking up Flos plants again - He says he has bits of all his unwar things remaining - His head is now full of a Southern man! (after the general plan of your's -) in which, it seems, he is desirous of getting Curtis to join him - I told him the head of the latter was overgrown with weeds, but still he thought it likely they should work together - He says the thing is much wanted, & in reply to frequent enquiries, he has nothing better to recommend, for Southern use, than Eaton!! Elliott, he says, is out of the question, from the cost & scarcity of the work. The Doctor seems to have a share of Southern ~~language~~ - a sort of want-to-be-fanned-by-nigger-itchness, about him, otherwise, if he has the time, I think he might bring out a useful book for - the Slave States! I shall like to see your review of Bartram - when it turns up. If you get no extra copies, I shall hunt it up in N. Am. review?

My Landlady has been very kind to me during my late illness - For 4 days I went only from the bed to the Sofa, & as my face & eyes were too much swollen for reading - which constant nausea would have prevented, even had it been otherwise - the blinds were not raised by day, nor lamp lighted in the evening - During this time of fever I lived on Peast-water - literally - not even Gruel besides!

I found it very lonely having no one to read or talk to me,
& especially, as I was making every hour throughout the night -
However, I am now thank God, about again, but "powerful
weak" & with no spirits at all - Thus much of greambling.
Love me, as I love you both, & may God bless & prosper you!
E.

19th Review received & read - a pleasant article - Thanks!
The peevish ~~too~~ Indian - "banging" Bartram dont shine
in contrast with gentle & amiable Peter Colinson -



Prof. A. Gray

Cambridge

Massachusetts.



Kindest regards, & good wishes for the opening year,
to all in, & about Ashurstow Place -